

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please cancel paragraph 0011 of the specification of the application, as filed.

Please add replacement paragraph 0011, as follows:

**[0011]** Once they have been removed from the printing forme cylinders, the used printing plates are then conducted to a device for neutralizing the used printing plates and are neutralized there. In this context, neutralization of the plates is understood to mean that the previously used printed image and/or print is removed from the printing plates. This removal takes place by the use ~~means~~ of a chemical, a mechanical or a thermal process, and preferably by the use ~~means~~ of laser techniques. An essentially even surface tension is achieved by ~~means of~~ the neutralization.